

T-238  
Academy House  
Oxford  
Private

c. 1850

Historically identified as the Academy House or the Bratt Mansion, this imposing two-story hip-roofed house is one of the most prominent dwellings to distinguish Morris Street. Raised on a high brick foundation, the center hall frame structure is defined by two-story pilasters that stretch from the brick cellar to the low pitched hip roof. Both the first and second floors are liberally lighted by large six-over-six sash windows. While the exterior portrays a restrained Greek Revival design, the interior is filled with bold Greek Revival door surrounds and mantels. The center hall, double-pile plan was executed on a generous scale with a broad passage flanked by double parlors on the north and a dining room and small study to the south. Fixed between the two southern rooms is a lateral stair hall providing access to the cellar kitchen and second floor chambers. With the stair positioned in the lateral hallway, the main entrance hall was left unobstructed by any staircase. The broad center passage allowed for formal entrance into the house, but it could also serve on a less formal basis as a cool place of retreat in the hot and humid Chesapeake summers.

Construction of the Academy House is placed around 1849-50, shortly after the organization of the Maryland Military Institute by its founder, General Tench Tilghman (1810-1874). The Maryland Military Institute was begun with grand hopes of the school as a preparatory institution to West Point. The institute's first superintendent was John H. Allen, a graduate of West Point. The Academy House was erected as the superintendent's residence, while the dormitory and other institution buildings were located on adjacent lots acquired by academy trustees from Catherine Fontleroy Banning in March 1850.

Despite the grand hopes of the institution's founders, the main college building was destroyed by fire on September 13, 1855. The Easton Star announced on September 18th that

*We have received of Professor J. H. Allen, Principal of the Institution, the annual catalogue of the officers and cadets of the Academy, together with the course of instruction & c., which exhibits the Institution in a highly prosperous condition. Since receiving the catalogue, however, we regret that the College Building has been destroyed by fire, the particulars of which will be found in another column. We learn that immediate steps will be taken to devise a means to repair the loss, and a new and more substantial building will be erected on the site of the one just destroyed.*

*.... We learn with sincere regret that one of the Maryland Military Academy Buildings at Oxford, in this county, were (sic) entirely consumed by fire at noon on Thursday last. The Chemical and Philosophical apparatus, the arms, books, bedding, & c., of the institution were saved, as well as the adjoining buildings. The fire was discovered in the room of one of the students, who are (sic) spending the vacation at the institution, and is supposed to have occurred from an imprudent or careless use of matches, or other combustible material. The building was owned by the stock company, was nearly new, completely furnished and cost \$5,000. Insured in the Mutual Insurance Company for Talbot County, for \$3,000.*

*Notwithstanding this commodious and convenient building is in ashes, we are informed that there will be no interruption in the duties of the institution, which was in a highly prosperous and flourishing condition. The efficient and energetic superintendent, with his assistants, have already procured a spacious building in the vicinity to supply its place until a new one is erected, so that the session shall commence at the usual time.*

It was also expressed in the newspaper that there was a hope the state legislature would intervene and appropriate funds for the support of the institution in light of its losses. State funds never materialized and the academy was forced to close shortly thereafter. Through several transfers during the early 1860s, the academy trustees sold the institution property to Mary Ann Bratt. Mary Ann Bratt and her husband Samuel

occupied the house with their many children. In the 1880 U. S. Census the couple is listed with seven children as well as Mary Ann's mother, Jane Bell and a young black servant, Sarah J. Gibbs. The property remained in Bratt family hands until 1965.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Academy House, Bratt Mansion

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-238

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):   Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):   Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s):           Single family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. T-238

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Academy House, Bratt Mansion

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number North Morris Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Oxford ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:                          |

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles L. McIntosh and Deborah J. Barbour

street & number 205 North Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 695  
liber 862

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 56

city, town Easton state MD 21601

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-238

|  |                                       |   |   |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                    |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Academy House, also known as the Bratt Mansion, is located at 205 North Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame house faces east with the shallow hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1850, the two-story, center hall/double-pile frame dwelling is supported on a raised seven-course common bond brick foundation that incorporates a ground floor kitchen. Attached to the south side of the house is a single-story enclosed porch that joins a single-story gable roofed garage to the main block. The property also includes a swimming pool in the back yard.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade defined by five two-story pilasters. Covering the wall surfaces between the pilasters is German siding. A center entrance is flanked by large six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Framing each window opening is a narrow beaded surround. The center entrance is sheltered by a single bay hip roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns and embellished with decorative corner brackets. The six-panel front door is topped by a three-light transom and flanked by two-light sidelights. Rectangular panels fill the spaces below the sidelights. Lighting the second floor is a series of six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The window sash have been replaced. The edge of the roof is trimmed with a wide fascia board and boxed cornice. Fixed atop the roof is a deck enclosed by a low balustrade. A cross-pattern railing is anchored by square posts at each corner. The cellar wall is pierced by six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters like the first and second floors.

The south wall features a single-story bay window built atop a raised foundation pierced by six-over-six sash windows. Each principal side of the bay window is filled with a replacement six-over-six sash window, and the edge of bay window is trimmed with a boxed cornice enhanced with slight bed and crown moldings. The bay window is located in the center of a south elevation defined by two-story pilasters. Rising through the southeast corner of the house is a single flue brick chimney stack. The north end of the house is partially covered by a single-story frame addition that joins the main block to a gable roofed garage.

The west (rear) wall is a five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The center entrance is sheltered by a turned post porch fitted with mid nineteenth century handrails and built-in bench seats. The five-bay facade is defined by tall two-story pilasters, although the center two pilasters have been cut in order to allow for double windows on the second floor. A large three-sided bay windows of modern construction fills the center bay above the porch. Rising through the southwest corner and north side are interior brick chimneys distinguished by point flue covers.

(Continued)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Academy House, Bratt Mansion T-238  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Page 2

The first floor follows a center passage/double pile plan. A broad center passage extends through the depth of the house, while a transverse stair hall is located between the two south rooms. Two large parlors of equal size are located on the north side of the passage.

The center passage is a generously sized space with high ceilings and monumental Greek Revival surrounds that are trimmed with cornices and which frame six-panel doors. An ogee molding caps the baseboard. The wide pine floors have been refinished. Fixed in the ceiling is a plaster medallion.

The series of rooms on the south side of the passage include a study, stair hall, and dining room. The study is located in the southeast corner, and the room is served by a corner fireplace. The firebox is framed by a slate mantel finished with marbled paint decoration. Fixed atop the mantel are reused doors that have been reworked as chimney breast paneling. The windows and door openings are framed by plain corner block surrounds.

Rising on the east wall of the stairhall is the original staircase. It features a turned newel post and tapered balusters, which support a slender handrail. Fixed beneath the stair is an enclosed staircase to the cellar.

The parlors on the north side of the passage are similarly finished and are separated by a wide double door opening. The Greek Revival mantels are topped by reused mid nineteenth century doors that have been reworked as overmantel paneling. The mid nineteenth century windows that survive have Gothic pointed muntins.

The second floor has been largely reworked with partitions relocated to create a large master suite on the west side of a narrow center passage. An enclosed staircase provides access to a small attic under the hip roof.

The cellar has been reworked over the years as well. The cellar staircase retains its original handrail, which has a square newel post, rectangular balusters, and a circular profile handrail.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-238

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates   | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D<br>and/or   |                   |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G |                   |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local  |                   |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically identified as the Academy House or the Bratt Mansion, this imposing two-story, hip roofed house is one of the most prominent dwellings to distinguish Morris Street. Raised on a high brick foundation, the center hall frame structure is defined by two-story pilasters that stretch from the brick cellar to the low pitched hip roof. Both the first and second floors are liberally lighted by large six-over-six sash windows. While the exterior portrays a restrained Greek Revival design, the interior is filled with bold Greek Revival door surrounds and mantels. The center hall, double-pile plan was executed a generous scale with a broad passage flanked by double parlors on the north and a dining room and smaller study to the south. Fixed between the two southern rooms is a lateral stair hall providing access to the cellar kitchen and second floor. With the stair located in the lateral hallway, the main entrance hall was left unobstructed. The broad center passage for formal entrance into the house, but it could also serve as a cool place of retreat during the hot and humid Chesapeake summers.

Construction of the Academy House is placed around 1849-50, shortly after the organization of the Maryland Military Institute by its founder, General Tench Tilghman (1810-1874). The Maryland Military Institute was begun with grand hopes of the school as a preparatory institution to West Point. The institute's first superintendent was John H. Allen, a graduate of West Point. The Academy House was erected as the superintendent's residence, while the dormitory and other institution buildings were located on adjacent lots acquired by academy trustees from Catherine Fontleroy Banning in March 1850.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the grand hopes of the institution's founders, the main college building was destroyed by fire on September 13, 1855. The *Easton Star* announced on September 18 that

*We have received of Professor J. H. Allen, Principal of the Institution, the annual catalogue of the officers and cadets of the Academy, together with the course of instruction & c., which exhibits the Institution in a highly prosperous condition. Since receiving the catalogue, however, we regret that the College Building has been destroyed by fire, the particulars of which will be found in*

<sup>1</sup> Talbot County Land Record, JP 64/32-35, March 7, 1850.



SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Academy House, or Bratt Mansion, T-238  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

*another column. We learn that immediate steps will be taken to devise a means to repair the loss, and a new and more substantial building will be erected on the site of the one just destroyed.*

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It was also expressed in the newspaper that there was a hope the state legislature would intervene and appropriate funds for the support of the institution in light of its losses. State funds never materialized and the academy was forced to close shortly thereafter. Through several transfers during the early 1860s, the academy trustees sold the institution property to Mary Ann Bratt.<sup>3</sup> Mary Ann Bratt and her husband Samuel occupied the house with their many children. In the 1880 U. S. Census the couple is listed with seven children as well as Mary Ann's mother, Jane Bell and a young black servant, Sarah J. Gibbs.<sup>4</sup> The property remained in Bratt family hands until 1965.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Easton Star*, September 18, 1855. Talbot County Free Library, Easton.

<sup>3</sup> Talbot County Land Record, JP 69/439, March 7, 1862, "the above named lots, in the town and port of Oxford, whereon the Military Academy now stands or that portion of the buildings saved some years ago from the fire, making the messuage, known as the Maryland Military Academy under the above recited indenture or lease...."

<sup>4</sup> Tenth Census of the United States (1880), Population Schedule for Talbot County, transcribed by Helen E. Seymour, published privately, 1997, p. 115.

<sup>5</sup> Talbot County Land Record, 401/561, April 10, 1965.

Survey No. T-238

## PS-2746

T-238  
Academy House, also Bratt Mansion  
North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 695

862/56                      David R. Forward  
                                 Maryann K. Forward

to

7/22/1997                  Charles L. McIntosh  
                                 Deborah J. Barbour

Lot No. 1    \$940,500    23,337 square feet

713/584                      Donald W. Sigmund  
                                 Deborah S. Sigmund

to

10/16/1991                David R. Forward  
                                 Maryann K. Forward

Lot No. 1    \$525,000.00

631/796                      Dewees F. Showell, Jr.  
                                 Sandra B. Showell

to

4/1/1987                    Donald W. Sigmund  
                                 Deborah S. Sigmund

\$375,000    Being a part of the property conveyed by  
                 Dewees F. Showell, Jr. etc. by a deed dated  
                 5/2/1979, 533/355

T-238  
Academy House  
North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

518/435

Mae F. Kammert  
Sandra B. Coyner Showell

to

12/13/1977

Dewees F. Showell, Jr.  
Sandra B. Showell  
“and more particularly shown on a plat entitled Land of  
Daniel Bratt...”

JTB 471/580

Great Alaska Corporation

to

10/31/1972

Mae F. Kammert  
Sandra B. Coyner Showell

471/577

Willisco, Inc.

to

10/27/1972

Great Alaska Corporation

423/98

Charles F. Willis, Jr.  
Elizabeth C. Willis

to

4/22/1965

Willisco, Inc.  
1.127 acres

T-238  
Academy House  
North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

401/568                      Johnson M. Fortenbaugh  
Doris Z. Fortenbaugh

to

4/17/1965                  Charles F. Willis, Jr.  
Elizabeth C. Willis

401/561                      Daniel B. Bratt, et al (Sara C. Bratt of Nassau Co., New York;  
Harry M. Bratt and Eloise Bratt, Haddonfield, N. J.; and  
Hazel Bratt, Silver Spring, MD)

to

4/10/1965                  Johnson M. Fortenbaugh  
Doris Z. Fortenbaugh

Plat Records, 15/70

191/80                      Samuel W. Bratt  
Fanny M. Bratt

to

11/10/1921                Daniel B. Bratt

FGW 141/375              Alfred Smith, et al. (and Daniel Baker) Executors of  
Mary A. Bratt (Will probated 3/29/1894)

to

1/22/1904                  Samuel W. Bratt  
\$7,500.00 Lots 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and also indicated on a  
later map as 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80

T-238  
Academy House  
North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

FGW 141/412                      Eugenia H. Bratt

to

3/23/1904                      Samuel W. Bratt

STH 74/276                      Tench Tilghman

to

11/27/1867                      Mary A. Bratt  
Lot 38     \$750

STH 71/238                      Tench Tilghman and others

to

8/23/1864                      Mary A. Bratt  
Lot 39

STH 71/238                      Tench Tilghman and others (trustees of Maryland Military  
Academy

to

8/23/1864                      Mary A. Bratt, wife of Samuel Bratt  
\$2850    Lots 40, 41, 42, 43 (also known as 77, 78, 79, 80)  
and also Lot 39 (known as 76)

T-238  
Academy House  
North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 5

JP 69/439                      Tench Tilghman  
Benjamin M. Bowdle, trustees of the Maryland Military  
Academy at Oxford

to

3/7/1862                      Mary Ann Bratt, wife of Samuel Bratt  
\$5,700 "the above named lots, in the town and port of Oxford,  
whereon the Military Academy now stands or that  
portion of the buildings saved some years ago from the  
fire, making the messuage, known as the Maryland  
Military Academy under the above recited indenture or  
lease..."

JP 64/32-35                      Catherine Fontleroy Banning

to

3/7/1850                      Tench Tilghman  
Franklin Buchanan  
Benjamin M. Bowdle

"situate in the Town of Oxford on the west side of Main Street  
leading from Town....and opposite to the late Richard  
Barnaby's Dwelling House, at this time occupied by Captain  
Richard B. Willis...beginning first day of January 1849.."



## THE EASTON STAR.

By Thomas R. Robson.

**EASTON, MD.**

TUESDAY MORNING, SEP. 18, 1855.

### DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

For Comptroller,  
**COL. WALTER W. W. BOWIE,**  
*of Prince Georges County.*

For Lottery Commissioner,  
**COL. GEORGE GALE,**  
*of Kent County.*

BLANKS, CIRCULARS, CARDS,  
BILL HEADS, and JOB PRINTING  
GENERALLY, neatly and promptly ex-  
ecuted at this Office, at *City prices.*

Persons indebted to us for subscription  
to the paper and advertising will very much  
oblige us by making an early settlement of  
their bills. Our collections since the burn-  
ing of our office have been very limited,

OXFORD, MD., MILITARY ACADEMY.—  
We have received of Professor J. H. Al-  
len, Principal of this Institution, the an-  
nual catalogue of the officers and cadets of  
the Academy, together with the course of  
instruction, &c., which exhibits the Insti-  
tution in a highly prosperous condition.—  
Since receiving the catalogue, however, we  
regret that the College Building has been  
destroyed by fire, the particulars of which  
will be found in another column. We learn  
that immediate steps will be taken to de-  
vise means to repair the loss, and a new  
and a more substantial building will be er-  
ected on the site of the one just destroy-  
ed. The stockholders of the Academy will  
meet in this place on Thursday next to  
consider what is best to be done in the  
present emergency. We hope a public  
meeting will be called, and an opportunity  
offered our citizens to aid in rebuilding the  
Academy, and we are sure our merchants  
will second this proposition, as the gentle-  
manly Principal has been a very liberal  
dealer in Easton ever since the institution  
was established. It has long been our o-  
pinion that the Oxford Military Academy  
should be encouraged by a State appropri-  
ation, and now that it has suffered so se-  
verely by fire, we hope measures may be  
taken to memorialize the next Legislature  
on the subject.

SIGNIFICANT.—The Gazette takes no no-  
tice whatever of the nomination of H. H.

## Political.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL NOMINA-  
TIONS.—We have already noticed that  
Judge James A. Stewart is an independ-  
ent candidate for congress in this, the 1st  
District. No nomination has yet been  
made in the 2d District. In the 3d, Hon.  
Joshua Vassant has been nominated, and  
the Hon. Henry May in the 4th District.  
Hon. Wm. T. Hambleton is the nominee in  
the 5th District, and in the 6th Gen. Theo.  
F. Bowie is an independent candidate.

G. W. P. Smith, Esq., editor of the  
*Shield*, is an independent candidate for  
State's Attorney in Worcester county.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONGRESS.—The knowl-  
nothings have nominated Dr. Cox, of Bal-  
ton, in the 1st Congressional District of  
Md.; Henry Winter Davis, Esq., of Balti-  
more, in the 4th District; H. W. Hoffman,  
Esq., of Cumberland, in the 5th District,  
and Dr. W. W. Watkins, in the 6th Dis-  
trict. Nominations have not yet been made  
in the 2d and 3d Districts.

Hon. Thomas A. Spence, of Cambridge  
is the K. N. candidate for Judge of the  
Circuit composed of Dorchester, Somerset  
and Worcester counties.

On Tuesday last, the Democrats of  
Queen Ann's county met at Centreville,  
and nominated the following able and pop-  
ular ticket. It will be hard to beat.



### Nothing of Dorchester County.

GENES.—I understand I have been honored with a nomination as Constable for this District by your body. Not knowing who to answer or where to send answer I am constrained to publish it.

I most decidedly decline the nomination, not believing in any way or manner in your principles, nor belonging to your order.

Yours, &c. JAMES H. MILLS.

*The Massachusetts Whigs.*—A convention of straight out whigs has been called to assemble at Worcester on October 24, for the purpose of nominating State officers.

*St. Mary's County.*—The democrats of St. Mary's county, Md., have nominated Benj. G. Harris and Oscar Miles, Esqs., for the House of Delegates. Mr. Harris has on several occasions represented St. Mary's in the legislature.

*Anti-Maine Law Nominations.*—Worcester, (Mass.) August 30.—The Anti-Maine Law Convention have nominated E. D. Beach, democrat, for Governor; Moses Davenport, whig, for Lt. Governor; and a full State ticket. Resolutions denouncing the Maine law were passed.

*FUNERAL EXTRAORDINARY.*—We find the following (not unexpected) announcement in the Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist of August 9.

"On Saturday last, about the hour for assembling to hear the speech of the Hon. A. H. Stephens, a streamer of black crape was seen tied on the door-knob of one of our most extensive and fashionable dry-goods stores. The doors were closed from

in the world of thought, the great idea of the toleration of all opinions—in the world of action, the prolific principles of Federal Union. Our country stands therefore, more than any other, as the realization of the unity of the races.—Geo. Bancroft.

*DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.*—We learn with sincere regret that one of the Maryland Military Academy Buildings at Oxford, in this county, were entirely consumed by fire at noon on Thursday last. The Chemical and Philosophical apparatus, the arms, books, bedding, &c., of the institution were saved, as well as the adjoining buildings. The fire was first discovered in the room of one of the students, who are spending the vacation at the institution, and is supposed to have occurred from an imprudent or careless use of matches, or other combustible material. The building was owned by stock company, was nearly new, completely furnished and cost \$5,000. Insured in the Mutual Insurance Company for Talbot County, for \$3,000.

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Easton Gazette.

*What the Allies did at Sweaborg.*—Mad. Bodisco, window of the late Minister from Russia, who came passenger in the Atlantic from St. Petersburg.

circumstances and a troubled conscience, to cave in and follow the fortunes of its master spirit, whose know-nothing sympathies have constrained him to abandon his position of the "strictest of the strict" in the whig party for considerations which the future must determine. Q. P. Q.

[COMMUNICATED.]

### LETTER NO. 2.

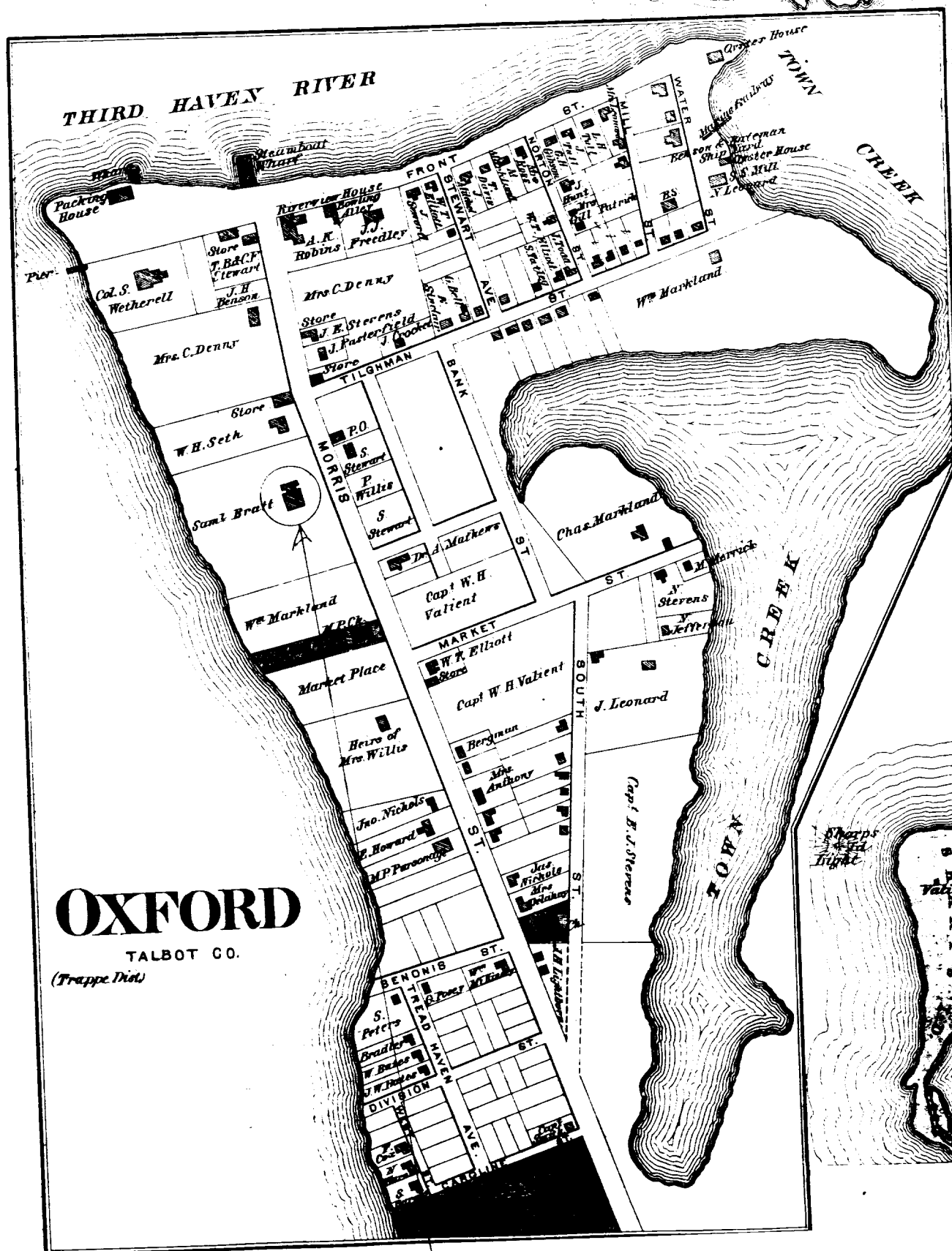
TO THE PEOPLE OF TALBOT COUNTY.

In my previous letter, my readers will remember that I stated there were three features of the platform of principles adopted by the so styled "American" party which I believe to be fundamentally erroneous and dangerous to our political institutions—that is to say—

1. Its hostility to the Roman Catholics.
2. Its invasion of the rights of naturalized citizens.
3. Its equivocation upon the Slavery question.

And in that letter I considered the first of these as being founded upon an unfortunate prejudice—as being contrary to the Constitution of the United States both in its letter and spirit; as being unjust in its operation upon a large body of good citizens; as being dangerous to that religious toleration which is one of the chief blessings of our republican system; and as magnifying the power and usurpations of the Papal See— I propose to submit a few more remarks upon this head before I examine the second. I believe that very many moderate men of the "American party" disapprove of this religious (or more properly irreligious) principle of the party, and there are many more who believe that it should apply only to foreign Catholics, but the action of the

JAMES N. WESTON & SPEAKMAN, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Native Lumber. Custom Sawing done to order. Mill near Hambleton.



T-238  
Academy House  
205 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877



T-238  
Academy House  
Oxford, MD Quadrangle  
1942

Benon  
Point



T-238

Academy House

Oxford, Talbot Co., Md.

EAST ELEVATION

6/98, PAUL TUCKER, PHOTOGRAPHER

N.C. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 5



T-239

Agency House

Oxonia, Talbot Co., MD.

SOUTH END BAY WINDOW

6/98, Paul Touart, PHOTOGRAPHIC

Natl. Acad. Historical Trust

2/5





T-278

Academy House

Oxford, Talbot Co., Md.

FRONT ENTRANCE

6/99, Paul Turner, Photographer

N&G. / MD. Historical Trust

3/5



T-238

Academy House

HEARD, TARRANT County, MD.

WEST ELEVATION

6/98, PAUL TARRANT, PITOTOLNADRE

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4/5



T-238

Academy House

Oxford, Talbot Co., MD.

West Elevation

6/99, Paul Tourant, Pitot & Rader

5/5

T-238

1848

Academy House (Bratt Mansion)  
Morris Street, Oxford  
Private

Also known as the Bratt Mansion, this Greek Revival, three-story, five-bay house was built in 1848 as the officers' quarters for the Maryland Military Academy, the preparatory school for the U.S. Naval Academy between 1849 and 1855. The house is raised on a high basement and is covered with clapboard. Two-story pilasters give rhythm to the facade, and a widow's walk surmounts the low hip roof. An 1850 fire consumed most of the important academic buildings, and today the Academy House stands as the lone remnant of this institution.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
INVENTORY T-238

ORIGINAL OWNER  
ORIGINAL USE Officers Quarters  
PRESENT OWNER Charles E. Willis  
PRESENT USE Dwelling  
WALL CONSTRUCTION  
NO. OF STORIES

2. NAME BRATT MANSION  
or Academy House  
DATE OR PERIOD c. 1830  
STYLE  
ARCHITECT  
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

OPEN TO PUBLIC *NO*

**Endangered**

**Interior**

### Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

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10 x 1.58

75% 238



T-238

T-~~238~~

238